

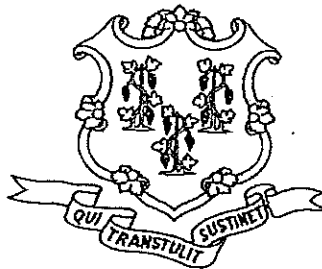
**SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT
Allocation Plan**

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2010

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR**

**MICHAEL P. STARKOWSKI
COMMISSIONER**



**SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT
ALLOCATION PLAN
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2010
OCTOBER 1, 2009 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2010**

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THE SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT ALLOCATION PLAN

FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2010

I. Overview of the Social Services Block Grant: Summary of Block Grant Purpose, Provisions and Proposed Changes

A. Purpose

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) was established by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981. It is an amendment to Title XX of the Social Security Act for the purpose of funding a variety of social service programs and related training activities.

The SSBG is administered by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through its administrative agency, the Office of Community Services. The Connecticut Department of Social Services is designated as the principal state agency for the allocation and administration of the Block Grant within the State of Connecticut.

B. Major Use of Funds and Target Population

The block grant legislation gives the state significant discretion in providing a wide range of services aimed at achieving the following goals:

- Achieving or maintaining economic self-support to prevent, reduce or eliminate dependency or institutionalization;
- Achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency, including reduction or prevention of dependency;
- Preventing or remedying neglect, abuse, exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interests, or preserving, rehabilitating or reuniting families;
- Preventing or reducing inappropriate institutional care by providing for community-based care, home care, or other forms of less intensive care;
- Securing referral or admission for institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate or providing services to individuals not in institutions.

The Family Support Act of 1988 and regulations subsequently published in November 1993 by the Department of Health and Human Services established and defined twenty-nine SSBG service categories.

For FFY 2010 funds are allocated to 12 of the 29 eligible service categories. Service categories are defined and described in Part II Table C. The SSBG supports the programs of five state agencies in addition to the Department of Social Services (DSS). DSS provided grants from SSBG funds to approximately 121 private non-profit and municipal service providers in FFY 2009.

The state may transfer up to 10% of its allotment for any fiscal year for use that year under the provisions of federal block grants for support of preventative health and health services, alcohol and drug abuse, mental health services, maternal and child health services, and low-income home energy assistance.

The state may use a portion of the funds for the purpose of purchasing technical assistance from the public or private entities if the State determines that such assistance is required.

The state may not use funds for:

- the purchase or improvement of land, or the purchase, construction or permanent improvement (other than minor remodeling) of any building or other facility;
- the provision of cash payments for costs of subsistence or for the provision of room and board (other than costs of subsistence during rehabilitation, room and board provided for a short term as an integral but subordinate part of a social service, or temporary emergency shelter provided as a protective service);
- payment of the wages of any individual as a social service (other than payment of the wages of welfare recipients employed in the provision of child day care services);
- the provision of medical care (other than family planning services, rehabilitation services, or initial detoxification of an alcoholic or drug dependent individual) unless it is an integral but subordinate part of a social service for which grants may be used under this subchapter;
- social services (except services to an alcoholic or drug dependent individual or rehabilitation services) provided in and by employees of any hospital, skilled nursing facility, intermediate care facility, or prison, to any individual living in such institution;
- the provision of any educational service which the state makes generally available to its residents without cost and without regard to their income;
- any child day care services unless such services meet applicable standards of state and local law;
- the provision of cash payments as a service (except as otherwise provided in this section);
- payment for any item or service (other than an emergency item or service) furnished -
 - by an individual or entity during the period when such individual or entity is excluded under federal law, or
 - at the medical direction or on the prescription of a physician during the period when the physician is excluded under federal law and when the person furnishing such item or service knew or had reason to know of the exclusion (after a reasonable time period after reasonable notice has been furnished to the person);
- support services provided directly by staff of a correctional facility for criminal offenders or ex-offenders.

The Target Population:

The Social Services Block Grant will be used to provide needed social services to vulnerable persons or families with special emphasis on those groups which are less able than others to care for themselves (e.g., people with disabilities, youth and older people).

Vulnerable persons or families are those who exhibit one or more of the following conditions (not presented in any ranked order):

- Economically disadvantaged (unemployed, under-employed, or low income);
- Physically, mentally, neurologically, or developmentally disabled;
- Abused/neglected (e.g., sexual assault victims, abused and/or exploited children and elderly);
- In need of language and cultural awareness assistance and/or technical immigration assistance;
- In need of drug or alcohol services;
- In need of family planning services;
- In need of mental health support services (e.g., distressed families or persons who may be at risk of institutionalization);
- In need of supportive services in order to remain in the community;
- In need of shelter assistance.

Recipients of services shall have incomes no higher than 150 percent of federal poverty income guidelines (see Section IV), except that the following services shall use the following income guidelines:

1. Protective Services for Adults, Protective Services for Children, Family Planning, Information & Referral, and Independent and Transitional Living services shall be provided without regard to income;
2. Recipients of Child Day Care services and Transportation services shall have incomes no higher than 75 percent of state median income.

Section 403 of Public Law 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, bars most qualified aliens who entered the U.S. after August 22, 1996 from eligibility for "Federal means-tested public benefits." The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has determined that Social Services Block Grant services are not "Federal means-tested public benefits." Therefore, qualified aliens, regardless of when they entered the United States remain eligible for SSBG services if they meet other program requirements.

C. Federal Allotment Process

Federal allotments to states for the SSBG program are based upon the national appropriation and Department of Commerce census data. Funds are allocated to each state in the same proportion as the state's population is to the population of all states.

D. Estimated Federal Funding

For FFY 2009 the SSBG was funded at a national level of \$1.7 billion. Connecticut's final allocation in regular SSBG funds was \$19,629,594.

Federal funding for FFY 2010 has not been finalized. The department has prepared this plan using the President's recommended funding level of \$1.7 billion. Connecticut's share is estimated to be \$19,629,594.

E. Summary of Total Estimated Expenditure and Proposed Allocations

Total Social Services Block Grant funds available for expenditure in FFY 2010 is estimated to be \$19,629,594. The department does not anticipate having any carry-forward funds in FFY 2010.

F. Proposed Allocation Changes From the FFY 2009 Plan

In FFY 2009, \$849,106 was available in carry forward funds. Those funds will not be available in FFY 2010. This will result in an across the board reduction of approximately 4.1 percent from the FFY 2009 grant amounts.

The allocation for FFY 2009 was \$19,629,594 plus \$849,106 in carry-forward funds for a total FFY 2009 allocation of \$20,478,700. The total amount estimated to be available in FFY 2010 is \$19,629,594. Allocations are projected based on the President's recommended budget and are revised when the actual budget is enacted. The President's recommended budget for Social Services Block Grants for FFY 2009 was \$1.2 billion and Connecticut's projected allocation was \$14,856,438. The enacted budget for FFY 2009 was \$1.7 billion and Connecticut's actual allocation was \$19,629,594.

Please note that actual allocations from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to the states can vary based on the state's increase or decrease in population. The department has not been notified of any projected changes to date.

Transfer from TANF to SSBG:

In addition to the funds appropriated by Congress and any carry-forward funds, the SSBG includes \$26,678,810 that will be transferred from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant. Because the transfer is approved by the General Assembly within the DSS budget, funding for these programs has not been incorporated elsewhere in this plan.

Because federal law only allows states to transfer up to ten percent of the TANF Block Grant to SSBG, any reduction in available dollars under the TANF Block Grant will reduce the amount of funding for SSBG/TANF programs. Should the department receive a reduction in available dollars for the TANF Block Grant, it is the department's intention to attempt to mitigate the impact of these cuts, if possible, through other available resources or by proportionately reducing those programs funded with SSBG and SSBG/TANF dollars.

The following is a list of the programs funded by TANF, the amounts transferred from TANF for those programs and the appropriate SSBG service category:

• Residential Treatment Residential Treatment		\$ 3,209,614
• Anti Hunger Programs Protective Services for Children		\$ 107,304
• Human Resource Development-Hispanic Other Services		\$ 260,610
• Child Care Centers Day Care Services – Children		\$ 15,697,930
• Residences for Persons with AIDS Housing Services		\$ 861,555
• Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Protective Services for Children		\$ 340,851
• Emergency Shelters Protective Services for Children		\$ 2,355,639
• Transitional Living Independent and Transitional Services		\$ 541,846
• Special projects Housing Services		\$ 46,818
• Rent Finders Housing Services		\$ 326,832
• Rent Bank Housing Services		\$ 593,028
• Security Deposit Program Housing Services		\$ 129,646
• Community Services Prevention and Intervention Other Services	23,409 87,134	\$ 110,543
• Child Care Licensure Child Care Services		\$ 666,791
• Human Resource Development Other Services		\$ 251,779
• Human Services Infrastructure Other Services		\$ 1,178,024
Total TANF Transfer		\$ 26,678,810

G. Contingency Plan

This allocation plan has been prepared based on an estimated FFY 2010 Block Grant award to Connecticut of \$19,629,594. We do not anticipate to have any carry-over funds. If for any reason this figure changes, the allocations will be adjusted in proportion to the amounts shown in this plan.

H. State Allocation Planning Process

Social Services Block Grant funds were originally allocated based on a Negotiated Investment Strategy (NIS) allocation methodology.

The Family Support Act of 1988 and regulations subsequently published in November 1993 by the Department of Health and Human Services established twenty-nine SSBG service categories. For FFY 2010, DSS will use twelve of the service categories (see Table A). DSS will continue to refine and make minor adjustments to the assignment of SSBG funded programs to the federal service categories.

The Department of Social Services is collaborating with the Office of Policy and Management in the development of a multi-year state plan for the competitive procurement of human service contracts. To the extent this plan affects services provided under SSBG, the requirements of this plan will be implemented consistent with the provisions of P.A. 07-195, codified under subsection (c) of section 4-70b of the Connecticut General Statutes, and/or any other pertinent act or policy as promulgated by the Legislature or the Office of Policy and Management.

I. Grant Provisions

42 USC Section 1397a entitles each state to receive, for each fiscal year, an amount equal to its allotment for such fiscal year, to be used by the state for services directed at the goals of the Social Services Block Grant.

42 USC Section 1397c requires that prior to expenditure of SSBG funds by a state, the state shall report on the intended use of the payments that the state is going to receive, including information on:

- the types of activities to be supported;
- categories or characteristics of individuals to be served.

The plan must be submitted to the Secretary of HHS and be made public to facilitate comment by any person and shall be revised throughout the year as may be necessary to reflect substantial changes.

II. Tables of Budgets, Expenditures, Objectives and Activities

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Table B.	SSBG PROGRAM EXPENDITURES	12
Table C.	SSBG PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES	13-16

TABLE A
SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

SUMMARY OF BUDGETS AND FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS

PROGRAM CATEGORY	FFY 2008 FINAL EXPENDITURES	FFY 2009 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	FFY 2010 PROPOSED
Case Management Services	2,204,798	1,998,654	1,935,275
Counseling Services	434,813	409,040	396,070
Family Planning Services	1,058,324	994,764	963,220
Home-Based Services	4,396,797	6,280,141	5,881,280
Independent & Transitional Living Services	5,025,351	4,436,695	4,296,003
Information & Referral Services	35,247	38,260	37,048
Legal Services	825,237	786,511	761,570
Other Services	148,925	120,561	116,738
Protective Services for Adults	562,419	565,956	548,010
Special Services for Persons with Dev. or Physical Disabilities or Persons with Visual or Auditory Impairments	3,113,954	2,926,936	2,834,120
Substance Abuse Services	1,641,943	1,543,331	1,494,391
Transportation Services	409,912	377,851	365,869
TOTAL	19,857,719	20,478,700	19,629,594
SOURCE OF FUNDS			
BLOCK GRANT	19,789,436	19,629,594	19,629,594
CARRY-FORWARD FROM PRIOR YEAR	917,389	849,106	0
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	20,706,825	20,478,700	19,629,594

TABLE B

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT: PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

Category of Expenditures	FFY 2008 FINAL	FFY 2009 ESTIMATED	FFY 2010 PROPOSED
	EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES
Personal Services(Including Fringe)			
DSS			
Other State Agencies	69,337	61,444	59,496
Other Expenses			
Equipment			
Contracts			
Grants			
Local and Private Agencies	9,720,270	8,746,490	8,469,131
Other State Agencies	5,703,811	5,460,989	5,287,820
Direct Services	4,364,301	6,209,777	5,813,147
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	19,857,719	20,478,700	19,629,594
Sources of FFY 2008 Allocation			
FFY 2007 Carry Over	917,389		
FFY 2008 Block Grant	19,789,436		
Sources of FFY 2009 Allocation			
FFY 2008 Carry Over		849,106	
FFY 2009 Block Grant		19,629,594	
Sources of FFY 2010 Allocation			
FFY 2009 Carry Over			0
FFY 2010 Block Grant			19,629,594

TABLE C

**SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT
SUMMARY OF SERVICE OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

Service Category	Objective	Grantor Agency Activity	Numbers Served FFY 2008*
Case Management	Services are arranged, coordinated, and monitored to develop and implement an individual service plan, and to provide counseling, and to evaluate client progress.	<u>DSS</u> Provides grants to eight municipalities and nineteen grants to non-profit agencies. <u>DMHAS</u> - Supportive Housing program Provides case management and support services for mentally ill clients to live in the community and to work toward self-sufficiency and employment	10,428 adults and 1,146 children received Case Management services from SSBG funded providers.
Counseling	Therapeutic processes are applied to personal, family, situational or occupational problems to achieve a positive resolution of the problem or improve individual and/or family functioning.	<u>DSS</u> Provides grants to seven municipalities and nine non-profit agencies for counseling services. <u>DMHAS</u> Provides grants to four non-profit agencies for counseling services.	3,152 adults and 672 children received Counseling services from SSBG funded providers.
Family Planning Services	Family planning services are those educational, comprehensive, medical or social services or activities which enable individuals, including minors, to determine freely the number and spacing of their children and to select the means by which this may be achieved.	<u>DSS</u> The Department provides one grant to the Planned Parenthood League of CT. for the provision of family planning services.	18,180 adults and 4,536 children received Family Planning services from SSBG funded providers.
Home-Based Services	Home-based services are those in-home services or activities provided to individuals or families to assist with household or personal care activities that improve or maintain adequate family well-being.	<u>DSS</u> Community-Based Services – These funds are used by the Department to maintain adults with disabilities in independent living through the provision of services; to increase the likelihood that the home environment for people with disabilities will be healthier due to the provision of homemaker and chore services; and to increase opportunities for persons with disabilities to achieve self-direction and choice by the provision of private providers.	3,188 adults and 280 children received Home-Based Services from SSBG providers in Connecticut.

*SSBG funds supplement the provision of services across the state. The statistics reflected above may represent outcomes associated with other programs and funding sources of which SSBG is a contributor.

TABLE C (Cont'd)			
SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT SUMMARY OF SERVICE OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES			
Service Category	Objective	Grantor Agency Activity	Numbers Served FFY 2008*
Home-Based Services Continued		<u>Board of Education and Services for the Blind</u> Provides for new intakes for Adult Services clients, client participation in the Independent Living Services Skills Training Program.	
Independent And Transitional Living Services	Independent and transitional living services are those services and activities designed to help older youth in foster care or homeless youth make the transition to independent living, or to help adults make the transition from an institution, or from homelessness, to independent living.	<u>DSS Grant Program</u> Provides grants to one transitional living program, and provides a portion of the funding to forty-three homeless shelters. <u>Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services</u> Provides grants to support four shelters which provide varying services including case management, relapse prevention, follow-up aftercare, and referral to substance abuse treatment, referral for housing, employment opportunities, and job training.	11,488 adults and 396 children received Independent and Transitional Living Services from SSBG funding providers.
Information and Referral Services	Information and referral services are those services or activities designed to provide information about services provided by public and private service providers and a brief assessment of client needs (but not diagnosis and evaluation) to facilitate appropriate referral to these community resources.	<u>Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services</u> Provides direct information and referral services through the community-based prevention system of this agency. <u>Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons With Disabilities</u> Provides funds to subcontractors who provide support and referral services for persons with physical and mental disabilities.	2,622,800 adults and 360 children received Information and Referral Services.

*SSBG funds supplement the provision of services across the state. The statistics reflected above may represent outcomes associated with other programs and funding sources of which SSBG is a contributor.

TABLE C (Cont'd)

**SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT
SUMMARY OF OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

Service Category	Objective	Grantor Agency Activity	Numbers Served FFY 2008*
Legal Services	Services or activities provided by a lawyer or a person under the supervision of a lawyer to assist individuals in seeking or obtaining legal help in civil matters.	<p><u>DSS</u> These funds provide a grant to Connecticut Legal Services, Inc. (CLS). CLS delegates a portion of the funding to New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Inc. and Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc.</p> <p><u>Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons With Disabilities</u> These funds are used to help support the services of a staff attorney and related legal expenses. The greatest percentage of these legal expenses is devoted to securing the rights of special education students.</p>	9,823 adults and 609 children received Legal services from SSBG funded providers.
Protective Services for Adults	Protective services for adults are those services or activities designed to prevent or remedy abuse, neglect or exploitation of adults who are unable to protect their own interests.	<p><u>DSS</u> Provides two grants to municipalities and seven grants to private non-profit agencies throughout Connecticut for various protective services.</p> <p><u>Commission on Deaf and Hearing Impaired</u> These funds are used for the direct provision of protective services for the deaf and hearing impaired individuals of the state.</p> <p><u>Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities</u> These funds are used for the provision of direct advocacy services by human services advocates to persons across the State with physical and/or mental disabilities.</p>	8,292 adults received protective services from SSBG funded providers.

*SSBG funds supplement the provision of services across the state. The statistics reflected above may represent outcomes associated with other programs and funding sources of which SSBG is a contributor.

Table C (Cont'd)

**SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT
SUMMARY OF OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

Service Category	Objective	Grantor Agency Activity	Numbers Served FFY 2008*
Special Services for Persons With Developmental or Physical Disabilities, or Persons With Visual or Auditory Impairments	Special services for persons with developmental or physical disabilities, or persons with visual or auditory impairments, are services or activities to maximize the potential of persons with disabilities, help alleviate the effects of physical, mental or emotional disabilities, and to enable these persons to live in the least restrictive environment possible.	<u>Department of Developmental Services</u> Funds are used to provide various forms of supported employment day programs for mentally retarded individuals.	8,295 adults and 98 children received Special Services from SSBG funded providers.
Substance Abuse Services	Substance abuse services are those services or activities that are primarily designed to deter, reduce, or eliminate substance abuse or chemical dependence. Except for initial detoxification services, medical and residential services may be included but only as an integral but subordinate part of the service.	<u>Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services</u> Provides grants to support sixteen clinics which provide intensive and immediate residential treatment, intensive outpatient services, methadone maintenance and long term care and treatment services.	4,077 adults and 183 children received Substance Abuse services from SSBG funded providers.
Transportation	Transportation services are those services or activities that provide or arrange for the travel, including travel costs, of individuals in order to access services, or obtain medical care or employment.	<u>DSS</u> Provides for one transportation grant to a municipality and two additional contracts have been made for the provision of transportation to work for former welfare clients.	2,309 adults and 2,750 children received Transportation services from SSBG funded providers.
Other Services	Other services are services that do not fall within The definitions of the preceding eleven (11) services but meet the purposes of the Social Services Block Grant	<u>Other State Agencies</u> DDS, BESB and CDHI use a Portion of their SSBG funding for administrative expenses	

*SSBG funds supplement the provision of services across the state. The statistics reflected above may represent outcomes associated with other programs and funding sources of which SSBG is a contributor.

III. ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM CATEGORIES

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

List of Block Grant Funded Programs - FFY 2009 Estimated and FFY 2010 Proposed

<i>Program Category</i>	<i>FFY 2009* Revised Planned Budget</i>	<i>FFY 2009* Adjusted Budget</i>	<i>FFY 2010 Proposed Budget</i>
Case Management Services			
Department of Social Services	1,269,878	1,732,821	1,677,871
Dept of Mental Health and Addiction	194,813	265,833	257,404
TOTAL	1,464,691	1,998,654	1,935,275
Counseling Services			
Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction	71,257	97,234	94,151
Dept. of Social Services	228,504	311,806	301,919
TOTAL	299,761	409,040	396,070
Family Planning Services			
Department of Social Services	729,002	994,764	963,220
TOTAL	729,002	994,764	963,220
Home Based Services			
Board of Ed & Services for Blind	51,566	70,364	68,133
Department of Social Services	4,399,615	6,209,777	5,813,147
TOTAL	4,451,181	6,280,141	5,881,280
Independent & Trans Living Services			
Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction	135,111	184,366	178,520
Department of Social Services	3,116,271	4,252,329	4,117,483
TOTAL	3,251,382	4,436,695	4,296,003
Information & Referral Services			
Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction	12,165	16,600	16,074
Protection & Advocacy - Disabled	15,874	21,660	20,974
TOTAL	28,039	38,260	37,048
Legal Services			
Department of Social Services	560,512	764,850	740,596
Protection & Advocacy - Disabled	15,874	21,661	20,974
TOTAL	576,386	786,511	761,570

*Original plan based on President's recommended budget at that time which was \$1.2 billion. FFY2009 adjusted budget reflects actual allocation of \$1.7 billion.

III. ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM CATEGORIES (Cont'd)			
SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT			
List of Block Grant Funded Programs - FFY 2009 Estimated and FFY 2010 Proposed (Cont'd)			
Program Category	FFY 2009*	FFY 2009*	FFY 2010
	Planned Budget	Adjusted Budget	Proposed Budget
Other Services			
Department of Social Services	43,323	59,117	57,242
Other State Agencies	45,029	61,444	59,496
TOTAL	88,352	120,561	116,738
Protective Services for Adults			
Commission on Deaf & Hearing Impaired	160,155	218,540	211,610
Dept. of Social Services	185,373	252,952	244,931
Protection & Advocacy - Disabled	69,227	94,464	91,469
TOTAL	414,755	565,956	548,010
Special Services for Persons with Development or Physical Disabilities or Persons with Visual or Auditory Impairments			
Department of Developmental Disabilities (formerly Department of Mental Retardation)	2,144,972	2,926,936	2,834,120
TOTAL	2,144,972	2,926,936	2,834,120
Substance Abuse Services			
Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction	1,131,013	1,543,331	1,494,391
TOTAL	1,131,013	1,543,331	1,494,391
Transportation			
Dept. of Social Services	276,904	377,851	365,869
TOTAL	276,904	377,851	365,869
GRAND TOTAL	14,856,438	20,478,700	19,629,594

*Original plan based on President's recommended budget at that time which was \$1.2 billion. FFY 2009 adjusted budget reflects actual allocation of \$1.7 billion.

IV. Income Levels

Federal Poverty Level – 2009 Annual Amounts	
Assistance Unit Size	150%
1	\$16,245
2	21,855
3	27,465
4	33,075
5	38,685
6	44,295
7	49,905
8	55,515

State Median Income (SMI) – 2009 Annual Amounts	
Assistance Unit Size	75%*
1	38,106
2	49,831
3	61,536
4	73,281
5	85,006
6	96,731
7	98,929
8	101,128

* Day Care and Transportation Services

